

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 29, 2005, has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 50 has been amended. A new dependent claim 63 that depends from claim 50 has been added. A new independent claim 64 and new dependent claims 65-69 that depend from claim 64 have been added. A new independent claim 70 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 50 and 54-70 are currently pending. Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Support for New Claims

Amendments to claim 50 are supported by, for example, Figures 16A and 16B of the application and the related description in paragraphs [0061] and [0063] on page 12, paragraph [0096] on page 21, and paragraph [0097] on page 22 of the current specification.

New claim 63 is supported by, for example, Figures 16A and 16B of the application and the related description in paragraph [0061] on page 12 of the current specification.

New claim 64 is supported by, for example, Figures 16A and 16B of the application and the related description in paragraph [0054] on pages 9-10, paragraphs [0061] and [0063] on page 12, paragraph [0096] on page 21, and paragraph [0097] on page 22 of the current specification.

New claims 65 and 66 are supported by, for example, Figures 16A and 16B of the application and the related description in paragraph [0061] on page 12 of the current specification.

New claim 67 is supported by, for example, Figures 16A and 16B of the application and the related description in paragraph [0064] on pages 12-13 of the current specification.

New claim 68 is supported by, for example, Figures 16A and 16B of the application and the related description in paragraph [0097] on page 22 of the current specification.

New claim 69 is supported by, for example, Figures 16A and 16B of the application.

New claim 70 is supported by, for example, Figures 16A and 16B of the application and the related description in paragraph [0054] on pages 9-10, paragraphs [0061] and [0063] on page 12, paragraph [0096] on page 21, and paragraph [0097] on page 22 of the current specification.

Election/Restrictions

Applicants respectfully submit that the newly added claims 63-70 all read on the elected species of Figure 16A.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, claims 50 and 54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim 5685740 in view of Sangree et al 6807068. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 50 recites, among other things, a cap manufactured of a material configured to minimize transmission of electrical signal away from its intended path, the cap constructed to fit about a jack, wherein the cap includes an electrically non-conductive material which is impregnated with an electrically conductive material such that the cap is overall electrically non-conductive, wherein the electrically conductive material of the cap is not constructed to be grounded when the jack is terminated to a cable.

Unlike the invention of claim 50, the termination cap (26, 28) in Lim is overall electrically conductive and is grounded when terminated to a cable. The sheet member 26 is fully metal. The stuffer member 28 defines electrically conductive parts (e.g., 28c, 28d, 28b-1, and 28b-2) that are in electrical connection with the metal sheet member 26 to provide electrical continuity between the sheet member 26, the stuffer member 28, and a shielded cable. In this manner, the termination cap (26, 28) in Lim is grounded through the shield of the cable when terminated to the cable. In column 2, lines 21-24 of Lim, it is stated that "A quite specific object of the invention is to provide enhanced electrical continuity as between cooperative components of a composite, plural part shield for an electrical connector..." In column 5, lines 48-51 of Lim, it is stated that "...the stuffer member (28) and the sheet member (26) defining structures jointly operating to provide electrical continuity between the cable shield and each of the stuffer member and the sheet member." Quite contrary to Lim, the cap featured in the invention of claim 50 is overall electrically non-conductive and is not constructed to be grounded when the jack is terminated to a cable.

Furthermore, the suggested combination of Lim with the Sangree reference in order to arrive at the cap featured in claim 50 finds no motivation or suggestion in either of the references. Sangree discloses a plastic EMI shield that has embedded conductive materials. Since the shield in Lim provides an electrical path to ground the shielded terminated cable, a plastic shield such as the one disclosed in Sangree would not be used in the cap of Lim to provide for grounding of the shielded cable. Moreover, even if the EMI shield in Sangree is considered to be overall conductive and is considered to be suitable for grounding a shielded cable, there is simply no motivation or suggestion to replace the cap in Lim with the shield in Sangree. Lim discloses a fully metal sheet member 26 for the cap, which is likely to provide for better electrical conductivity than the carbon-embedded plastic shield in Sangree. One skilled in the art would have had no motivation to replace the fully metal cap of Lim with the carbon-embedded plastic shield of Sangree to ground a shielded cable.

Thus, for at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 50, previously presented dependent claim 54, and new dependent claim 63 are patentable over Lim in view of Sangree et al and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 55-58 and 60-62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim in view of Sangree et al as applied to claims 50 and 54 above, and further in view of Arnett et al 6746283. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 55 recites, among other things, a cap manufactured of a material configured to minimize transmission of electrical signal away from its intended path, the cap constructed to fit about the jack, wherein the cap includes an electrically non-conductive material which is impregnated with an electrically conductive material such that the cap is overall electrically non-conductive, wherein the electrically conductive material of the cap is not constructed to be grounded when the jack is terminated to a cable.

As discussed above with respect to claim 50, the termination cap (26, 28) in Lim is overall electrically conductive and is configured to be grounded when the jack is terminated to a cable. In sharp contrast, the conductive material of the cap featured in claim 55 is not constructed to be grounded when the jack is terminated to a cable.

Moreover, as discussed previously, there is no motivation either in Lim or Sangree to replace the fully metal cap of Lim with the carbon-embedded plastic shield of Sangree, especially given that the cap in Lim is used to ground a shielded cable. One of ordinary skill in the art would not consider replacing Lim's cap with Sangree's less conductive EMI shield when one of the purposes of the cap in Lim is to provide a continuous electrical path in terminating and grounding a shielded electrical multiconductor cable.

Arnett et al fails to remedy the deficiencies of Lim in combination with Sangree et al. Specifically, Arnett fails to disclose a cap including an electrically non-conductive material which is impregnated with an electrically conductive material such that the cap is overall electrically non-conductive, wherein the electrically conductive material of the cap is not constructed to be grounded when the jack is terminated to a cable.

For at least the reasons stated above, claim 55 is believed to be patentable over Lim in view of Sangree et al, and further in view of Arnett et al.

Claims 56-58 and 60-62 depend from and further modify claim 55 and are patentable for at least the same reasons specified with respect to claim 55.

Thus, in view of the above statements, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 55-58 and 60-62 over Lim in view of Sangree et al, and further in view of Arnett et al is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 59 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim in view of Sangree et al and Arnett et al as applied to claim 55 above, and further in view of Roselle et al 4820196. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Roselle et al fails to remedy the deficiencies of Lim in combination with Sangree et al and Arnett et al. Specifically, Roselle et al fails to disclose a cap including an electrically non-conductive material which is impregnated with an electrically conductive material such that the cap is overall electrically non-conductive, wherein the electrically conductive material of the cap

is not constructed to be grounded when the jack is terminated to a cable. For at least this reason, claim 59 is believed to be patentable over Lim in view of Sangree et al and Arnett et al, and further in view of Roselle et al and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Patentability of New Claims

New independent claim 64, recites, among other things, a one-piece cap manufactured of a material configured to minimize transmission of electrical signal away from its intended path, the cap constructed to fit about a jack that includes a port for receiving a plug, spring contacts for making electrical contact with the plug, and insulation displacement contacts housed in an insulation displacement contact housing, the cap including a first wall portion constructed to at least partially cover a top of the insulation displacement contact housing, a second wall portion constructed to at least partially cover a back of the insulation displacement contact housing, and third and fourth wall portions constructed to at least partially cover two sides of the insulation displacement contact housing, the cap including a curved first notch defined along the second wall portion of the cap for accomodating a cable terminated to the insulation displacement contacts, the cap including a second notch defined along the first wall portion of the cap, the cap constructed to fit about the jack with a snap-fit, the cap including an electrically non-conductive material which is impregnated with an electrically conductive material such that the cap is overall electrically non-conductive.

None of the references cited , either by itself or in a reasonable combination with others, discloses or suggests a cap having the features recited in claim 64. Specifically, none of the references, either by itself or in a reasonable combination with others, discloses or suggests a one-piece cap constructed to fit about a jack with a snap-fit, wherein the cap includes a first wall portion constructed to at least partially cover a top of an insulation displacement contact housing of the jack, a second wall portion constructed to at least partially cover a back of the insulation displacement contact housing, and third and fourth wall portions constructed to at least partially cover two sides of the insulation displacement contact housing, and wherein the cap includes a curved first notch defined along the second wall portion of the cap for accomodating a cable terminated to the insulation displacement contacts and a second notch defined along the first wall portion of the cap, the cap also including an electrically non-conductive material which is

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impregnated with an electrically conductive material such that the cap is overall electrically non-conductive.

Thus, in view of the above, new independent claim 64 and new dependent claims 65-69 that depend from claim 64 are patentable.

New independent claim 70 recites a method of reducing alien crosstalk between adjacent jacks that are terminated to non-shielded cables by snap-fitting a cap about one of the jacks, wherein the cap includes features similar to the cap recited in claim 50.

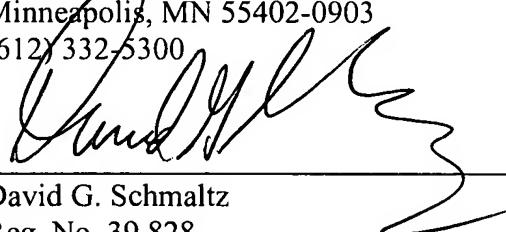
As discussed above with respect to claim 50, none of the references, either by itself or in a reasonable combination with others, discloses or suggests mounting an overall electrically non-conductive cap to a jack that is terminated to a non-shielded cable, wherein the cap includes electrically non-conductive material which is impregnated with electrically conductive material. For at least this reason, new independent claim 70 is patentable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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